Financial information on terrorism funding

*272. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently discussed with USA about sharing financial information to crack down on terrorism funding?

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the merits and demerits of such an understanding with USA?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) At the fourth meeting of the India-U.S. Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism, held on 21-22 January in New Delhi, the two sides had detailed discussions, *inter alia,* on financing of terrorist activities and agreed that the widespread use of informal channels for financial flows presents a special challenge to Governments. They agreed that closer cooperation and strengthening mutual capabilities in cutting off financial flows to terrorist organisations will constitute an important component of their counter-terrorism cooperation.

(c) It is well recognised, including in the UN Security Resolution 1373 of 28 September 2001, that international cooperation to deny and disrupt availability of finances to terrorist organisations is an important component of the war against terrorism. It will also contribute to Government's efforts to combat terrorism in India.

Uniform scam

†*273. SHRI MUNNAVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 471 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd November, 2001 and state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether the enquiry into the entire uniform scam case has since been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken against the persons found guilty;

(c) if not, the reasons for issuing uniforms to the employees despite having been found to be sub-standard;

(d) whether any permission was obtained from the CBI or the court prior to issuing the sub-standard uniforms; and

(e) if not, what action Government propose to initiate against the persons involved in issuing these uniforms?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) The investigation report has not been received from CBI. The disciplinary proceedings/prosecution, if any, will be initiated after the receipt of investigation report from CBI. However, four officers and one employee have been placed under suspension.

The samples of the uniform were got tested from NITRA (Northern India Textiles Research Association) linked to Ministry of Textiles, Government of India and found to be conforming to MTNL (Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited) specifications. CBI has not commented about the quality of uniforms. Therefore, the uniforms were distributed to the staff as per agreement between MTNL Corporate Office and the recognized union.

National Highway Patrol Force

*274. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider constituting a special National Highway Patrol Force, comprising both of Civil Wing and